



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA  
STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS  
DECISION ON APPEAL

In the matter of the campaign finance penalty appeal  
by Pauli For Mayor (CC-25-00412)  
April 8, 2026

**FACTS**

The above-named petitioner had a campaign finance report due January 15, 2026, at 11:59:59 PM. Petitioner submitted the required report on January 16, 2026, at 7:47 PM. A \$100 civil penalty for failure to file a required report was issued by Montgomery County General Registrar on January 20, 2026.

Pursuant to § 24.2-953.6 of the Code of Virginia (the Code), petitioner submitted a *Petition to Appeal Campaign Finance Penalty* to the State Board of Elections (SBE) on January 24, 2026. Petitioner sought relief in the form of forgiveness of the assessed penalty. Petitioner's basis for appeal was that circumstances made filing the required report or requesting an extension by the deadline impractical. Petitioner stated that good cause existed to provide relief due to their assumption that their filing requirements had stopped after the election date passed.

**DECISION**

The SBE heard the appeal on April 8, 2026. Pursuant to § 24.2-953.6 of the Code, the SBE determined the petitioner demonstrated good cause to grant relief, not in the amount requested but in the form of a reduction of the total penalty amount from \$100 to \$25.

**RATIONALE**

In finding that the petitioner demonstrated good cause, the SBE noted the petitioner's misunderstanding of filing requirements and the immediate filing of the report upon realization of this misunderstanding. The SBE also noted that the petitioner has no prior late campaign finance report filings on record.

*John M. O'Bannon*  
John M. O'Bannon (Apr 20, 2026 09:56:57 EDT)

John O'Bannon  
Chairman, State Board of Elections

*Rosalyn R. Dance*  
Rosalyn R. Dance (Apr 28, 2026 09:15:55 EDT)

Rosalyn R. Dance  
Vice-Chairman, State Board of Elections

*Georgia Alvis-Long*  
Georgia Alvis-Long (Apr 19, 2026 17:11:35 EDT)

Georgia Alvis-Long  
Secretary, State Board of Elections

*Christopher P. Stolle*  
Christopher P. Stolle (Apr 28, 2026 09:05:59 EDT)

Christopher P. Stolle  
Member, State Board of Elections

*Sally Hudson*  
Sally Hudson (Apr 24, 2026 08:46:29 EDT)

Sally Hudson  
Member, State Board of Elections